
The Public-Access Computer Systems Review

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COMMUNICATIONS

Symposium on the Role of Network-Based Electronic Resources in
Scholarly Communication and Research

Charles W. Bailey, Jr. and Dana Rooks, eds. (pp. 4-60)

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Ralph Alberico, William Britten, Craig Summerhill, and Erwin Welsch answer five questions about network-based electronic resources:

QUESTION 1: What role should librarians play in providing intellectual access to network-based electronic resources? Should librarians mount a collective, nationwide effort or should they primarily focus their efforts on meeting local user needs?

QUESTION 2: Considering the dynamic nature of the network information environment, what are the most promising technological strategies for facilitating access to network-based electronic resources? Catalog records in national bibliographic utilities and local online catalogs? Specialized resource directory databases, which would be available on the network? Microcomputer-based front-ends, possibly utilizing hypermedia or expert system technologies?

QUESTION 3: What kind of support services should libraries provide to their users to help them utilize network-based electronic resources? Special workstations in the library? Bibliographic instruction? User documentation? Mediated access?

QUESTION 4: Should libraries "collect," provide access to, and preserve network-based electronic resources? If so, what types of information (e.g., computer conference logs and electronic serials) should be collected? How should access to these locally housed electronic materials be provided? What types of barriers do you see that will hinder libraries in their attempts to accomplish this goal?

QUESTION 5: As one response to the deepening crisis in the cost of library materials, colleges and universities could become publishers of network-based electronic journals, index and abstract databases, and scholarly electronic books. Should they do this? If so, what role should libraries play in this effort?

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COLUMNS

Public-Access Provocations: An Informal Column

I Like It Like That

Walt Crawford (pp. 61-64)

To retrieve this file: GET CRAWFORD PRV2N2 F=MAIL

Walt Crawford examines the question of how online catalogs can help users find more items "like that one."

EDITORIAL

You Say You Want an Evolution

Charles W. Bailey, Jr. (pp. 65-66)

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The Editor-in-Chief discusses changes in the distribution format of the PACS Review.

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